

JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTOR'S SOCIETY

Volume V, #1

Summer 1993

Single Copy \$4.00



*1908-D Dime with an MPD. What's an MPD?
Look inside and find out!*

“QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER”

*Call or write us today for
coins you need.*

Jack H. Beymer

Phone: 707 544-1621

737 West Coddington Center

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Store hours: 10 AM to 6 PM Mon-Sat

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTOR'S SOCIETY

Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

OFFICERS

J.T. Donohue.....	President, Publisher and Editor, <u>BCCS Journal</u>
Dale Krueger.....	Vice President, Research
Gregory S. Heim.....	Secretary
Joe Haney.....	Assistant Vice President for Research
Lawrence N. Rogak.....	General Counsel
Paul Reuter.....	Treasurer
Jay Ordoyne.....	Advertising Manager

VP, Eastern Region
Gerald L. Kochel
14 W. Orange Street
Lititz, PA 17543

VP, Central Region
Jay Ordoyne
3828 Garfield Ave., South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Contributing Editors: · Phil Carrigan · Pete Haishun · Joe Haney
 · Russell Easterbrooks

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>Four Issue Contract</u>
One-eighth Page	\$12.00	\$40.00
Quarter Page	20.00	70.00
Half Page	30.00	100.00
Full Page	60.00	200.00
Full Page (Inside Front or Back Cover)	80.00	300.00
Full Page (Outside Back Cover)	125.00	400.00

Deadline for copy will be September 1.

Send finished display advertising for the BCCS Journal to:
Gregory S. Heim
P.O. Box 4595
Warren, N.J. 07059-0595

ON THE COVER

BCCS member Ken Hill cherry-picked this 1908-P Dime with a misplaced date (MPD) at last year's ANA Convention. Where are the misplaced digits? The tops of the 0 and 8 are peeping out from between the denticles just beneath the corresponding numerals in the date.

CONTENTS

President's Message.....	3
Announcements.....	3-5
It's Time To Grow <i>by Joe Haney</i>	6
Cover Story: Repunched Dates & Misplaced Dates of 1908 <i>by Ken Hill</i> ..	8
Forming a VG Set of Barber Halves <i>by Ted Textor</i>	11
Wanted...Articles for the BCCS Journal.....	14
Barber Sets on a Budget : A Different Approach, Part II <i>by Peter B. Haishun</i>	16
What is Required for a Mint State Barber Quarter to Qualify as a Fully Struck Coin? <i>by Glen J. Church</i>	21
Some New Barber Dime Varieties and Other Facts and Figures <i>by Russell Easterbrooks</i>	24
An 1892 Type I Quarter with Filled S's <i>by Bill Harris</i>	26
Classified Ads.....	27
Membership Application.....	28

PRESIDENT 'S MESSAGE

The last four months have been very critical for the future of the Society. I want to thank the many individuals who have offered me their help, encouragement or advice. I also want to thank those of you who have submitted articles to the Journal as well as all of you who have renewed your membership with BCCS. Without your involvement, the Society would not be where it is today.

Finally, I want to especially thank Jack Beymer and our new Secretary, Greg Heim. Without their help, I may not have been able to get this baby off the ground!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BCCS National Meeting at the ANA

The Society will hold its next national meeting in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting will be held on Saturday, July 31 at 1:00 pm in room 304 of the Baltimore Convention Center. We have been allotted two hours for the meeting, so please be prepared to provide some input and bring plenty of coins for show and tell.

We will also have our own club table at the ANA. Having our own table serves a number of purposes for the Society. It serves as an informal meeting ground where BCCS member can "talk Barbers". It enables us to disseminate information about Barber Coinage and the Society. In doing so, we can recruit new members as well as solicit articles and advertising for the Journal. So, stop by the table and put in an hour or two. This way, maybe your president will have some time to roam the bourse floor.

Appointments

Dale Krueger will take over J.T. Donohue's old job of Vice President for Research. Greg Heim is our club's new Secretary while Paul Reuter will retain his position as Treasurer. Jerry Kochel will remain as Eastern Region Vice President.

Central Region Vice President, Jay Ordoyne has taken on the additional duties of Advertising Manager and Chairman of the Membership Committee. Lawrence Rogak has agreed to stay on as the Society's General Counsel.

Joe Haney has graciously accepted the post of Assistant Vice President for Research. In this capacity, Joe will oversee surveys for varieties in all three denominations.

Anyone wishing to do surveys on varieties should write Joe at:
2832 Jefferson Avenue
Aresley, PA 19038

Area Representatives

The following people have volunteered to serve as BCCS are representatives in their respective states:

COLORADO:	Benjamin D. Addams 1617 Hudson Denver, CO 80220	
DELAWARE:	Vince Marra 4204 Newport Gap Pike Hockessin, DE 19707	
GUAM:	Dave Holloway 343-B Palmyra Ave. Yigo, Guam 96929-1431	
ILLINOIS:	Rich Hlavacik 808 Colonade Rd. Shorewood, IL 60436	
NEW JERSEY:	Arno Safran P.O. Box 605 Lakewood, NJ 08701	
MASSACHUSETTS:	Len Ariagno 692 Elm St. Somerset, MA 02726	Jack White 23 Franklin Rd. Norwell, MA 02061
MICHIGAN:	Dale Krueger 5103 Eastman, Suite 140 Midland, Mich. 48640	
VERMONT:	Russell Easterbrooks RD #1 Box 760 Worcester, VT 05682	

These individuals will serve as the BCCS contact person(s) for the state in which they reside. If you live in any of the eight state listed above, write your area representative(s) to see how the Society can help you and you can help the Society. Hopefully, volunteers from the remaing 42 states will step foward so that we can make BCCS a "grass-roots" organization with a membership goal of 2,000 people.

Reminders

We are always glad to receive articles for the Journal from our members, especially if they have not written anything for us before. We would prefer that articles submitted should be typed and double spaced. If this is not possible, please make sure that you skip a space between each line with hand-written material. If you follow one of these procedures, it will greatly facilitate the editing process.

When corresponding with J.T. or Greg, please include your membership number from your old membership card. This will enable us to respond more quickly.

Summit Rare Coins

Chris Napolitano
P.O. Box 1345
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(612) 937-5720

*Specializing in Choice and Rare U.S. Coinage for
Collector and Investor Portfolios*

IT'S TIME TO GROW

By Joe Haney

After being in existence for some four years now, the BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY has come to a point where we must redefine our position and goals. Upon the Society's formation, we set a criteria of education and study of the Barber Series in its three main groups: the Dimes, the Quarters, and the Half Dollars. This was and still is being accomplished with articles, commentary, questions and answers, personal opinions, etc. gathered and published in a Journal printed each quarter exclusively for and about Barber Coinage. I, along with others believe it is time we step up the tempo and advance to a higher plateau. Maybe deeper would be a better word, for that is where we want to go: Get into the fine tuning of the Barbers.

As it has always been, the club is for you, the collector and by you, the collector. With this in mind, we need your input as to the proper road to achieve this deepening. So far, the Journal has been extremely diverse and it has accomplished the purpose for which it was intended. What do you want to see in future issues? Or rather, what do you want to see expanded?

Grading does not seem to be much of a problem with uncirculated Barber collectors, especially in the grades that most of us collect, Fine to About Uncirculated. Please, no slight is intended to those of you that collect in the AG, Good or uncirculated grades. If you have any problem with grading, please let it be known. I am sure some knowledgeable member can put together an understandable article and address your concerns.

One matter that we do have to discuss is cleaning and preserving Barber Coins. There is no sense collecting coins in any given series if we do not know how to handle and preserve them. Rules have to be established and adhered to. Can I dip a coin? In what kind of holder do I put a coin? Remember, as a club, we should be setting the standards for future Barbers Collectors to follow. We are a very young organization as far as numismatics goes, but we have taken on the responsibility to shed some light on a series of coins that until recently has laid dormant. This does not mean that Barber Coins have not been collected, for they have, very much so by a dedicated group of low key hobbyists. It is almost as if they enjoyed saving these beautiful Barber Coins so much that they were content to keep them to themselves. Oh well, as they say, all good things come to an end. Although in this case, let us hope it is coming to a new beginning.

One thing that has impressed me most about the Society is the listing of the rarity of each coin in all three denominations. THE POCKET RARITY RATING GUIDE put out by our club is probably the only one of its kind in the hobby. I want to impress upon you the importance of knowing approximately how many Barber Coins still exist in each grade by date and mint. It is important for each member to know what dates and grades are available in each series. If a coin with an R7 rating becomes available and can be used in a set, it should be purchased if the price is within reason. That same coin or one similar might not be seen again for years. Even an R6 might be extremely difficult to locate a second time.

Each of us has his own way of collecting. While you might be putting together a set of Dimes in Very Fine, I might be collecting them in Very Good. It is important the hobby knows of these different activities. However, we do not need nor do we want your holdings labeled with your name. Rather, I have one of these in this grade. I can not find one of these in that grade. Do you have additional pieces? Are you interested in selling or trading for coins you might need to complete a set? We will probably ask for your member number when submitting information. This will be for identification purposes only, in case we need to know more about a coin. Of course, you can identify yourself if you wish. It is always nice to talk of a person as a person and not as a number.

These are some of the thing we are going to ask of you for future editions of the Journal. We do not need all of the information at once. We hope, over a period of years to compile as many statistics as possible, but with just a few coins at a time. We have a few good people willing to analyze your submissions if you will only take the time to respond. I was always a little embarrassed to respond to the request for information on the three keys of the Barber Quarter Series ('96-S, '01-S, and '13-S). Since mine are only Good / AG at best, I thought they were not important. This I find is not so. Now, the three coins have taken on an entirely new meaning to me. At the present time, we believe the '96-S to be an R3, the '01-S to be an R4, and the '13-S to be an R3. That means scarce, very scarce, and scarce, or in other words, hard to find even in these low grades.

That's enough for now. Please give some serious thought to your holdings, large or small. How can you help us so the Club and the Journal can help you? Most of you know me as a variety collector. This is not about variety coins, but we will eventually be doing variety surveys. So keep this on the back burner for now. I will surely turn up the flame sometime in the near future.

REPUNCHED DATES AND MISPLACED DATES OF 1908

By Kenneth R. Hill

The year 1908 has long been known as a year in which many (RPD's) varieties can be found. Several years ago, Bill Fivaz, in an article in Errorscope, suggested that those interested in repunched dates (RPD's) pay particular attention to the dimes of 1908 because this year has more than its share. Chris Pilliod, in the Spring 1992 issue of our journal, also supports the contention that 1908 was a good year for varieties. Walter Breen's Encyclopedia lists six RPD's including triple punched dates (TPD's) for the dimes of 1908. For the preceding three years, he only has five listed! One for 1905, three for 1906 and one for 1907.

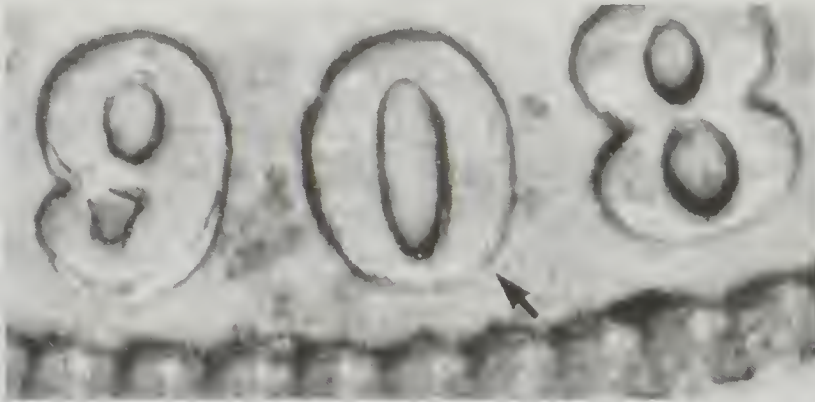
I have studied and searched for MPD's (misplaced dates as opposed to repunched dates) for a number of years. An MPD would occur when the date was punched into an area of the die not intended for the date, i.e. the denticles, the rock or skirt as in the Seated Liberty Coinage, the hair as on the Large Cents, etc. An RPD should be in the approximate location of the final placement of the date. Within the past two years I have found three different varieties of MPD's on 1908 Indian Cents. If you can find this "error" on an Indian Cent why not on a Barber Dime, Quarter, or Half?

So about a year ago, I started looking for MPD's as well as RPD's and double punched dates on Barber coins. Here is a list of my findings which are illustrated with corresponding photographs:

DIMES

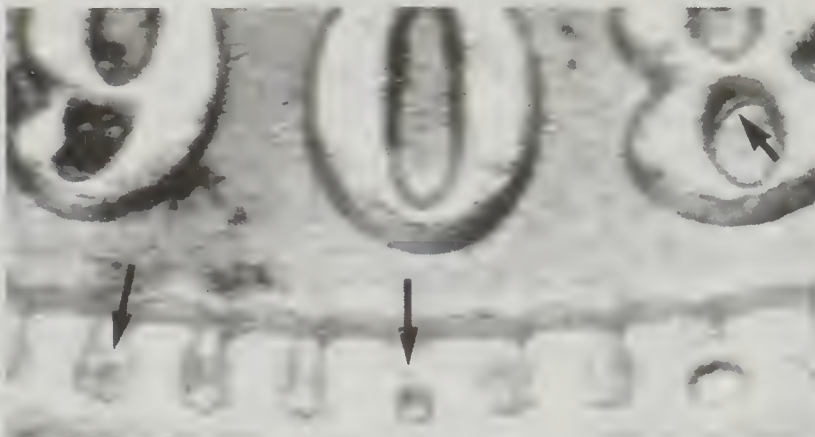
1908-P

All four digits are repunched with the 9 being the strongest. The 1 (not pictured) shows repunching on the top of the serif, the 0 southeast, and the 8 within the tops of both loops (photo 1).



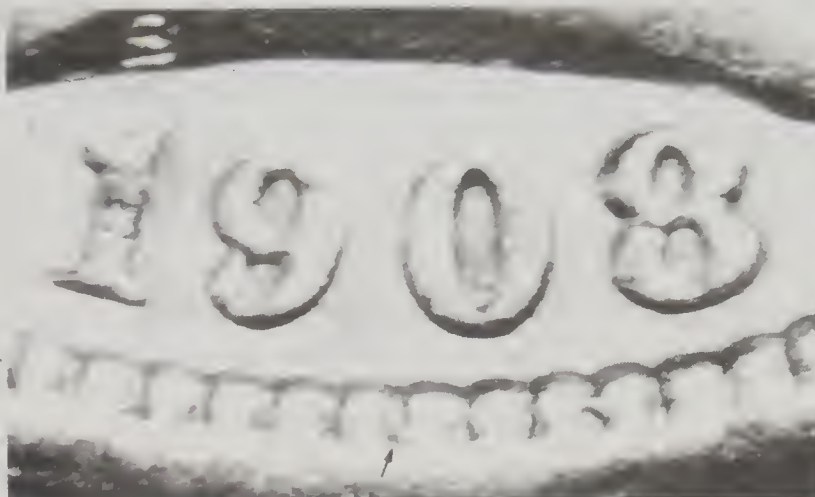
1908-D
MPD/RPD

The tops of the 0 and the 8 show up in the denticles. Beneath the first arrow there is a possible trace of the top of the 9. The MPD slopes upward and to the right. The 8 shows repunching in the northwest part of its lower loop (photo 2).



1908-D
MPD

The top of the 8 and perhaps the 0 are again evident in the denticles of this Denver mint coin. The digits slope up to the 8 which is the strongest (photo 3).



QUARTERS

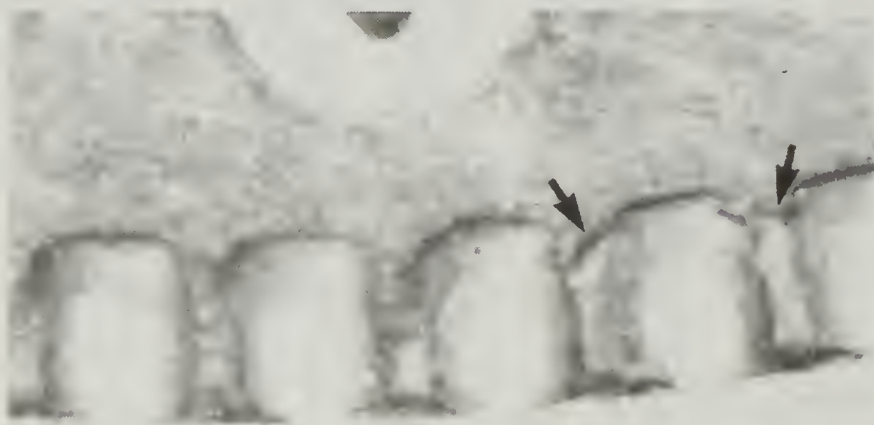
1908-D
RPD/TPD

This coin would be listed as 1908/1908/90. All four digits are repunched and the 9 and 0 are punched again far to the west. There is repunching within the lower loop of the 8 (photo 4).



1908-O

The top of an 8 is almost coming out of the denticles between the 0 and 8 (photo 5).



In conclusion, the year 1908 has very interesting varieties, not only in the Dimes, but also in the Quarters. The Denver and New Orleans mints seem to account for the lion's share of these interesting dies. I have not found any varieties from the San Francisco mint for this year, but I am sure that I have barely scratched the surface in the search for MPD's in the Barber Series. If you get out your loop and look closely at the denticles of your 1908 Barbers, you may be pleasantly surprised.

FORMING A VG SET OF BARBER HALVES

By Ted Textor

Barber Coins have attracted me for many years. The beauty of their obverse design: Miss Liberty's majestic head surrounded by the thirteen stars, "In God We Trust" and the date are, in my view, a true art form which is further enhanced by the reverse design. Here, the symbolic eagle is strong and determined and it is neatly encompassed by the legends "United States of America", and "Half Dollar". The thirteen stars representing our original thirteen states also appear on the reverse, above the eagle. The eagle symbolizes peace with the olive branch in its right claw but it also stands for no nonsense as shown by the arrows in its left claw. In all, the obverse and reverse designs by Charles E. Barber are outstanding and it is difficult to understand the original criticisms that were made when the coins were first minted.

Three years ago, I decided to build a complete set of one particular Barber denomination. At that time, I shied away from the Quarters because of the rarity of the 1896-S, 1901-S, and the 1913-S. Since the dime reverse design was not as appealing as the 50 cent reverse, I decided to make a Barber Half Set.

At that time, my coin collection contained several VG Barber Halves. In comparing a VG Barber with the mint-state specimen in my type set, it was quite striking to note that most of the important design features were still evident on the VG coin. Any numismatist can easily recognize the missing (worn) elements in a VG Barber Half, so I decided an attractive set could be achieved in VG condition and I proceeded accordingly.

The collection grew relatively quickly and within a few months, I had roughly 90% of a complete set. This fact was accomplished by successfully bidding on two rolls of Barber Halves, all different. I also was fortunate to encounter a collector at a local coin show who was breaking up his Barber Half Collection. He sold me the semi-keys such as the 1897-O and S, and 1898-O and 1901-O.

However, the keys, 1892-O, 1892-S and 1896-S, plus the semi-keys, 1894, 1901-S and 1904-S, were not easy to locate. They were eventually acquired by visiting many local dealers, attending shows and ordering from several mail order dealers. In all, the set was finally completed in about 18 months principally because my endeavor was to match the coins as closely as possible.

It should be mentioned that the four most difficult coins to find were the 1892-O, 1892-S, 1894 and 1896-S. It was indeed a thrill when I encountered any of these coins and they were all acquired from different sources.

A few words about grading and condition are in order. In regard to grading, in a technical sense, my minimum criteria were that the obverse had to have three letters showing in "LIBERTY" and at least one of the last four top leaves in Liberty's wreath had to be faintly visible. These criteria had to be further substantiated by the following reverse features:

Here, the eagle's eye had to be just visible and most letters in "E Pluribus Unum" had to be legible although a few coins could have as many as three letters missing, particularly the "U" in "UNUM" and the P and L in "PLURIBUS." Also, a few horizontal lines in the shield had to be evident and almost all the vertical lines had to be separated. I relied strongly on these reverse criteria since they were more consistent and more numerous.

In regard to condition, a compromise was necessary. It is obvious that any VG coin has been through many hands and has been subjected to some physical damage. Therefore, in my view, an "ideal" coin at this grade level is non-existent, i.e. it may well have, in addition to wear, many problems such as scratches, rim dents, corrosion and, possibly some attempt by a previous owner to brighten the coin.

In regard to brightening, I reasoned that this was very common after examining hundreds of Barber Halves. More than half the coins had been cleaned at some time and in some manner. So, in order to complete the set, judgement was necessary. Therefore, I would reject any coin that had been severely and harshly cleaned and I made every effort to select a coin that was as close to original as possible. The final test for an acceptable coin was one that met the technical grade, was visually attractive to the unaided eye and closely matched the other coins in the set.

It was really a delight and a pleasure to form this collection. Also, I believe it is well within the budget of the average collector since the total cost was between \$1100 and \$1200. This set includes eight About Fine coins and five coins in Fine.

One final note: In my journey through the 50 cent Barber world, I began acquiring better grade Barbers, i.e. anything from F-12 to VF-30. So I am now forming a F-VF set which is a greater challenge but a very interesting one.

ATTENTION
COLLECTORS & DEALERS!

Wait! Don't Sell Your Coins . . .

Until You Talk To Heritage!

*We Will Pay You Top Dollar For Your Entire Collection.
Get Your Check Today!*

If the time has come to sell your collection, you owe it to yourself to contact Heritage Rare Coin Galleries. As the world's largest and most respected coin firm, we sell more, so we pay more. Or if you prefer, talk to us about selling your rare coins at one of our national public auctions. We buy virtually all types of rare coins, currency, and stamps.

- Entire collections •
- Entire dealers stocks •
- Certified and raw coins •
- Quality rare U.S. and foreign coins •
- Quality rare stamps •

*For more information, call
1-800-US COINS
(872-6467)*



PCGS



NUMISMATIC
GUARANTY
CORPORATION
OF AMERICA



Heritage Plaza • 100 Highland Park Village • Dallas, Texas 75205-2788
WATS: 1-800-US COINS (872-6467) • In Texas: 214-528-3500 • FAX: 214-520-6968

WANTED

ARTICLES FOR THE BCCS JOURNAL

It has been said that a specialty club like ours is only as good as its journal. By extension, our journal can only be as good as the articles contributed by our members. The more articles we receive from our members, the better our journal will become.

So, please take a few moments to indicate what kind of input you could provide for the Journal by completing the form below and send it to:

J.T. Donohue
President BCCS
1438 Noah Road
North Brunswick, N.J. 08902

Article Solicitation Form appears on next page.

ARTICLE SOLICITATION FORM

Feel free to check more than one item per question, if applicable.

1. I would feel most comfortable writing about Barber

Dimes _____

Quarters _____

Halves _____

2. If I were to write an article for the Journal, it would most likely focus on:

_____ relative availability of one or more coins as determined through personal observation.

_____ conducting surveys of members' holdings to determine the relative scarcity of (a) given coin (s) as was recently done with the 1895-O Dime.

_____ die varieties (repunched mintmarks, overdates, double dies, etc.)

_____ Barber mint errors (off-center, off-metal coins, etc.)

_____ personal anecdotes about acquisitions of Barber coins.

_____ studies of the price performance of Barber coinage.

_____ Other (please specify).

3. Please list any possible titles for future articles to be submitted to the Journal:

4. Kindly insert a number in the blank in the following statement which best reflects how much you feel you could produce for the Journal:

At this point, I feel that I can write _____ articles per year.

5. I would like to submit an article for one of the following issues of the Journal:

Fall, 1993; deadline: September 1 _____

Winter, 1994; deadline: December 1 _____

Spring, 1994; deadline: March 1 _____

Summer, 1994; deadline: June 1 _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

(you can either photocopy this form or lift it from your journal)

BARBER SETS ON A BUDGET: A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Part II: Higher-Grade Short Sets

By Peter B. Haishun

Let us assume that you have just decided to assemble a set of Barber Coins. Let us also assume that you have read Part I of this article in the Winter 1993 issue of the BCCS Journal and have determined that your budget will not allow you to assemble a complete date and mint set in an overall grade level which appeals to your artistic eye. Well, hope is not lost! You can still admire the Barber design in your chosen grade level, and strive to put together a "complete" Barber set which accomodates your budget. The solution is a higher-grade short set.

For the purposes of this article, I define "higher-grade" as FINE or better. The 1992 Red Book generally defines FINE as "[m]oderate to considerable even wear. Entire design is bold with overall pleasing appearance". It may also be recalled from Part I that it was at the FINE or better grades that Coin World "Trends" values increased markedly for complete Barber date and mint sets. This is exactly the situation which would cause collectors with limited budgets to consider alternate ways of collecting Barber coin sets in the higher grades.

I define "short set" as a specialized set which does not include all of a denomination's date and mint issues, yet is complete in itself as to the characteristic(s) for which it is specialized. A "higher-grade short set", then, should satisfy the following objectives:

1. It has relatively few coins (dates) for the collector to acquire.
2. It has one or more characteristics for which only specific dates qualify.
3. It is comprised of coins of sufficient grade to make the collecting aesthetically enjoyable.
4. It entails reasonable cost to the collector with a limited budget.

The challenge, then, would be to find a higher grade short set which will meet all of these objectives, from the collector's own individual perspective. In my personal opinion, a higher grade Philadelphia mint year set would be one likely candidate. The basis for my suggestion is discussed in the following paragraphs.

A. Deciding on a Mint

It does not take a lot of thinking to decide on the Philadelphia mint ("P-mint"). Philadelphia was the only mint which struck all three denominations for every year of the series, from 1892 to 1916 (1915 for halves). The Denver and New Orleans mints can be eliminated because their Barber production did not span the entire 25-year period. Denver coins were not minted before 1906, and New Orleans coins were not minted after 1909.

The San Francisco mint's insignificant production of twenty-four dimes in 1894 for all practical purposes, leaves a one-year "gap" in its duration. The San Francisco Quarter Dollars history have several "gaps", since no quarters were produced there in 1904, 1906, 1910 and 1916. Furthermore, although San Francisco Half Dollar production did encompass all the years 1892 through 1915, the scarcity and high prices of many of these dates in fine or better may as well eliminate "S-mint" Halves from consideration as a budget-minded short set.

By process of elimination, then, we are left only with the Philadelphia mint coins. However, we are already well on our way to satisfying three of the four objectives listed above. First, we have met objective one, since no matter what denomination, there are still not that many coins to acquire for a P-mint set. One only has to fill 25 album spaces for the dimes and quarters (26 quarters with the 1892 Types I and II) or 24 album spaces for the halves. Second, a P-mint year set is specialized as to mint and has the added bonus of encompassing all Barber years, thus satisfying, objective 2. We have also fulfilled objective 4, since P-mint coins were nearly always the most plentifully produced per year during the Barber period, current prices for higher-grade examples are relatively reasonable and affordable, as compared with those of the other mints. All that is left is satisfying objective 3, namely that the combination of cost and grade will result in a set which is enjoyable to collect. For this, we need to decide on a denomination.

B. Deciding on a Denomination

For the all important cost versus enjoyment objective, we can scan the representative prices shown in the Coin World "Trends". Table 2 presents the "Trends" values for common and key date P-mint Barber

coins in Fine through AU as of early February 1993. The common date amounts represent the base-line "Trends" values for common date P-mints in each grade.

Variations above these minimum amounts per grade occur from date to date.

Here are some observations regarding each denomination:

1. Barber Dimes - A glance at Table 2 shows that we have a major obstacle in the 1895-P Dime. (As an aside, it may be noted that the 1895-P Dime is the only date which appears in both Tables 1 and 2. It is the only P-Mint Barber coin which is a key date in any set to which it belongs).

Although VF and XF examples of the 1895-P currently trend at amounts which are not out of this world, their respective BCCS rarity ratings of 4 and 5 may discourage many collectors from pursuing either grade, despite the relatively inexpensive prices of other P-mint dimes. Even though Good and VG examples currently trend at only \$56.00 and \$77.50 respectively, the original purpose of our short set was to assemble a collection of uniform higher-grade coins to "admire".

However, in the Spring, 1992 issue of the BCCS Journal, Arno Safran is very enthusiastic about putting together a matched P-mint Dime set in even Choice AU grade, although he concedes that it would take considerable time to locate all of the pieces. (See: "The Case for Collecting P-Mint Barber Dimes," BCCS Journal, Volume IV, Number 1.) Even though Choice AU examples of the 1895-P, if they can be found, currently sell for more than \$450, Mr. Safran writes that "true collecting is no fun without effort" and assembling a higher grade P-mint Barber Dime set presents "interesting experiences and challenges along the way".

2. Barber Quarters - There is only one key P-Mint Barber quarter, the 1913-P. A major dealer told me that higher-grade examples of this date are even scarcer than the BCCS rarity rating of 4 implies, and that "sleepers" in the series are the 1904-P, 1905-P, 1910-P and 1911-P. Therefore, the collector who selects P-mint Barber Quarters should set as a goal the acquisition of a higher-grade 1913-P the first chance he or she gets. Since the "sleeper" dates are valued at or only slightly above the prices for common dates, they are bargains whenever they can be found.

Bill Cregan had this to say about P-Mint Barber Quarters: "These Philadelphia coins are also a bonus because they are reasonably priced and a full date run of these quarters would be a fascinating challenge to put together and a marvel to see". (See: "Philadelphia Mint Barber Quarters," BCCS Journal; Volume III, Number 4; Winter 1992.)

3. Barber Halves - The collector on a budget might eliminate XF and AU P-mint Halves because of cost (common dates trend at \$105 and \$230, respectively), as well as overall scarcity. Not to be overlooked are the low mintage P-mints of 1905, 1910, 1913, 1914 and 1915 for which the factors of cost and scarcity are multiplied. However, if the collector is willing to drop down to and overall VF or even Fine, he or she can still assemble a nice looking half dollar short set.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Given the prices in the current Coin World "Trends," I would probably conclude that my budget would not allow me to complete a date and mint set in any grade above Good for Quarters for VG for Dimes and Halves. However, since I also like the looks of Barber Coins in the higher-grades, I would have little choice but to try for a suitable short set.

As stated in Part I, I am partial to Barber Quarters because of the eagle on the reverse as well as the fact that common date Barber Quarters are less expensive than comparable common date Barber Halves in similar grades. Therefore, my higher grade short set of preference would be a P-mint Quarter set in VF or XF. Unfortunately, I can not say that I am practicing what I preach, since I am still only dreaming about it!

A Philadelphia mint year set is only one way to enjoy these beautiful coins on a limited budget. I hope the six steps listed in Part I for date and mint sets, plus the four objectives listed in this Part, help to guide you to a short set which you will enjoy putting together and which will give you years of enjoyment. Even if you decide that the way you can really enjoy higher-grade Barber coins is just to purchase one coin in that grade, well and good! It will be a "short set" to which you give an especially personal meaning. Whatever your criteria, the possibilities are nearly unlimited for us to enjoy our favorite coin series. Go for it!

TABLE 2. COMPARISON OF SELECTED COIN WORLD "TRENDS"
VALUES FOR PHILADELPHIA-MINT BARBER
DIMES, QUARTERS AND HALVES

	<u>F-12</u>	<u>VF-20</u>	<u>XF-40</u>	<u>AU-50</u>
<u>BARBER DIMES</u>				
Common				
P-Mint Dates	\$3.00	\$6.25	\$19.00	\$44.50
Key Dates -				
1894	\$57.50	\$77.50	\$90.00	\$110.00
1895	180.00	265.00	315.00	415.00
1896	25.00	42.50	50.00	80.00
<u>BARBER QUARTERS</u>				
Common				
P-Mint Dates	\$13.25	\$24.00	\$52.50	\$100.00
Key Date -				
1913	\$47.50	\$145.00	\$375.00	\$550.00
<u>BARBER HALVES</u>				
Common				
P-Mint Dates	\$22.00	\$52.50	\$105.00	\$230.00
Key Dates -				
1910	\$55.00	\$110.00	\$200.00	\$375.00
1913	67.50	165.00	285.00	485.00
1914	120.00	250.00	400.00	700.00
1915	75.00	180.00	350.00	585.00

Sources: Coin World February 1, 1993 and February 8, 1993.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A MINT STATE BARBER QUARTER TO QUALIFY AS A FULLY STRUCK COIN?

By Glenn J. Church

It is my experience that many people who sell uncirculated Barber Quarters are not acquainted with the elements of a FULL STRIKE Barber Quarter. In a telephone conversation, a dealer may assure a potential buyer that the subject quarter is a full strike. However, upon close inquiry, the seller is embarrassed to learn that nice eye appeal alone does not qualify the coin as fully struck.

Thanks to writings by Walter Breen, David Lawrence, the late Colonel Gene Edwards, Jack Ehrmantraut and others, and after several years of observation, I have developed and adopted a few basic criteria which make a good beginning at approving a Barber Quarter as fully struck.

When I examine a coin, I prefer to use ten power magnification with a halogen lamp. However, I also like to add a view of the coin in bright sun light, in daylight shadows, and finally with standard incandescent lighting.

Many questions go through one's mind as one observes the coin. Has the coin been circulated but represented to be uncirculated? Is the objection to the strike just a weak strike and not conditions arising from wear? How do we distinguish poor strike from the wear of circulation? Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish unless you have seen many coins of the date and mint in question.

To address the subject of this article as to what constitutes a bold, strong, sharp and full strike we first view the obverse side:

1. The stars should have full radials.
2. The hair line at the brow of Liberty should be fully defined.
3. The tips of the leaves of the wreath should be full and sharp.
4. Liberty's cheek, which is one of the most important features of the coin, should appear full and life-like, free of the mumps and well defined.
5. The ear lobe should be full and not flat.

Next, we turn to the reverse side of the coin, and it is this side which is most likely to show wear if indeed the coin has been circulated. The individual aspects of the coin which disclose a weak strike are as follows:

1. The eagle's left claw holding the arrows should have well pronounced cross-hatches. The greatest number of coins graded as uncirculated: I have seen have few if any cross-hatches. For me, this is the supreme test as to whether the coin is well struck.
2. The feathers and butts of the arrows should be nicely detailed, not sheared off.
3. The bottom edge of the eagle's tail should not appear flat. Such flatness indicates either wear or a poor strike.
4. The eagle's wing tips should be well pronounced. Often, however, they appear worn, with a break in the original luster.
5. The top of the eagle's head should show nice detail. If it is flat, I suspect circulation.
6. The stars should be uniform in appearance if the coin is well struck.

I would concede that each coin will differ in the quality of its strike, especially so given the elapse of one hundred years, but the criteria discussed above for a full strike will usually only be found in grades MS-65 and above.

In future years, if the art of coin cleaning is perfected and the processes are accepted by professionals, the one element that can not be altered or varied is the quality of the strike. So, this is one of the most important considerations one must evaluate in considering the purchase of a coin for one's collection and the price one is willing to pay. That is not to say that eye appeal, toning and freedom from scratches and damage are not important.

Fifteen years ago, Barber expert Colonel Gene Edwards wrote an article for the Coin Dealer Newsletter on Barber Quarters wherein he declared that for many dates of the series "a well struck gem may not exist".

The 1898-O has a low mint-state population and experts doubt that a fully-struck example will ever surface. I have seen the highest grade PCGS '98-O, the only one which PCGS gave the lofty designation of MS-66. The eagle's claws are generally non-descript with few, if any, cross-hatches. The arrow-butts are flat. NGC's best '98-O is an MS-67, the only one so graded by that service. A dealer described that coin's reverse to me as follows: "Both claws are blobs and the arrows are flat".

Considering that the population reports have been stable for about three years, I conclude that the strike on the uncirculated 1898-O will always be weak.

Why is a full strike so important? I believe it is the quest to find perfection in the uncirculated coin-in a coin originally intended to be used for circulation-not a work of art. When the collector finds a business strike that rivals its proof P-mint counterpart, he then feels he has the ultimate! For me, this is why a good strike is so important.

In my Barber Quarter Collection, my favorite strike is on an 1892 NGC MS-66. This coin is a frosted, proof-like cameo minted in the first year of the series and probably one of the earliest strikes of a new die. When I acquired this coin, it was the first time I realized what a true full strike was supposed to look like. The claws are completely full with life-like cross-hatching in full detail, just as Charles Edward Barber intended in his original design for the final product.

My hope for readers of this article is that they will each have the joy of seeing, and some day perhaps owning, a true well struck Barber Quarter. Happy hunting!

Back Issues

All back issues of the Journal are available from the first issue of Spring, 1989 onward. All issues are priced at \$4.00 each. To order your copies, send your check or money order to:

Paul Reuten
BCCS Treasurer
415 Ellen Drive
Brookhaven, MS 39601

SOME NEW BARBER DIME VARIETIES AND OTHER FACTS AND FIGURES

By Russell Easterbrooks

Collecting Barber Dimes has been an interest of mine for over 15 years. During this time, I have been fortunate enough to assemble some beautiful sets in XF and AU. In addition to locating the desired pieces, an understanding of grading, strike, pricing, and history are all helpful in completing a set of coins.

I also own a substantial library of numismatic and history books which has been an invaluable resource. One cannot emphasize enough the importance of numismatic and historical literature in building the collector's knowledge. The knowledge you acquire will, in turn, enhance your enjoyment of coins.

I believe that many Barber collectors prefer to collect coins in grades Fine to AU simply because such coins are both attractive and affordable.

Today, I continue to look for XF and AU Barbers. However, the VF grade appears to be readily available at very reasonable prices. Most dealers have nice selections of VF Barbers to choose from. As collectors search for dates and mint marks, varieties are often found by accident. Thanks to recent books now available, and the Barber Coin Collectors Society, variety collectors are actively searching for these interesting coins. No one really knows how many exist or what their values might be. Yet, in grades as low as VG major die breaks can be readily observed. Some of the major die breaks I have found while assembling my Barber Dime sets include: an 1897 with the date away from the bust, but joined to the bust by a small blob touching the 7; and an 1899-S with a similar break touching the last 9. I also own an 1898 with the last 8 connected to Liberty's bust by a heavy blob. I have two 1909-S dimes with a blob connecting the middle of the E to the bottom of the E in the word DIME. A similar break also appears on a 1911 dime.

Die breakage was a serious problem at the mints because of wear, clashed dies, or improper hardening of the dies. The 1896 mint report states that Barber Dimes were struck at a pressure of 40 tons, at an average rate of 100 coins per minute. Halves were struck at 110 tons and quarters at 80 tons. Both were struck at an average rate of 80 coins per minute. This kind of pressure and speed placed great stress on the dies and minor dies cracks are often seen as hair like raised metal, often

starting near part of the design and running towards the coin's rim.

Looking at as many coins as possible in all the grades affords the collector a better "feel" for understanding grade, strike and history of their favorite series. Time spent searching through a dealer's stock, sometimes including rolls, more often than not rewards the collector with interesting finds at very affordable prices. Collectors who have done their home work also can "cherry pick" dates that are undervalued in today's market, as well as any varieties that may be found.

Your appreciation of the hobby can be further enhanced by getting involved with a coin club or society and writing about your finds and collecting interests. Circulated coins are the roots of the collector and deserve more recognition in today's marketplace.

WHEN IT COMES TO BARBERS WE WROTE THE BOOKS!

"Specializing In Barbers Since 1979"



ALWAYS BUYING... *Send us your Barbers for Sale or
Call Dave Toll-Free @ 1-800-776-0560*

ALWAYS SELLING... *Send for FREE List*



David Lawrence Rare Coins

P.O. Box 64844 • Virginia Beach, VA 23467
800-776-0560 • FAX (804) 424-2363

AN 1892 TYPE I QUARTER WITH FILLED S's

By Bill Harris

In the Summer, 1989 BCCS Journal Question and Answer Column, a member made reference to owning an 1892 Type I quarter with the top loop of both S's in the word "STATES" filled in. As is my customary practice, I made a notation in my Red Book, just in case I ever came across such a coin at a local coin show.

Surprisingly, a coin with the above mentioned characteristics was located without much difficulty, which leads me to believe it must be relatively common.

I am not familiar enough with minting procedures to offer a technical explanation as to why only the tops of the S's were filled but not the bottoms. Additionally, one wonders why the tops of both S's on the reverse are filled but not the top of the S in the word "TRUST" on the obverse. Surely, one of our variety experts out there will come forward and help educate some of us beginners on this one!

At the present time, this characteristic seems to be limited to the Type I coins minted at Philadelphia.

Pictured below is my VF specimen which was photographed by Tom Mulvaney.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BARBER QUARTER SET: AG to VG. Missing only '96-S, '97-S, '99-O, '01-S, '07-S and '13-S. Mostly grade Good. Many individual dates available. Send wants

BARBER HALVES: '92-S AG, \$25. Many dates available in Good. Bob Masterson, P.O. Box 172, Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989

BARBER QUARTERS: '01 XF \$45; '08 AU \$115; '09 AUt \$125; '14-S, VG/G \$50; '14-S VG \$60.

BARBER HALVES: '95-S, VF \$95; '01 XF, \$125; '05-S, XF, \$160; '08-P Fine, \$25; '08-D, AU, \$225; '09-O, Fine, \$35; '09XF, \$200; '10-S, XF, \$135; '12-D, XFt, \$150; '12-S, VF, \$60; '13-D VF, \$65. Bob Masterson, P.O. Box 172, Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989

BCCS COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS

BCCS Commemorative medals
containing one ounce of pure silver
are still available for only \$11.00 each.

They can be ordered from
Jay Ordoyne as follows:

BCCS Medals
3828 Garfield Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

BCCS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Clip or xerox a copy and pass it along to a friend.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number (optional): _____ - _____

1. I collect Barber coins: ☐ exclusively ☐ along with other coins

2. I collect Barber:

☐ Dimes

☐ Quarters

☐ Halves

3. I am most interested in Barber:

☐ Dimes

☐ Quarters

☐ Halves

4. I am presently working on (a) set(s) of:

☐ Dimes in grade(s) _____ + _____.

☐ Quarters in grade(s) _____ + _____.

☐ Halves in grade(s) _____ + _____.

5. I consider myself to be a(n) _____ collector.

☐ beginning

☐ intermediate

☐ advanced

6. I collect Barber Coins

☐ by type only

☐ by date only

☐ by date and mint mark

☐ by die variety

Send check or money order for \$15. to:

Gregory S. Heim (BCCS Secretary)

P.O. Box 4595

Warren, N.J. 07059-0595

WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES

One of America's leading coin dealers and brokers for rare coin investment programs offers a sizable assortment of hard-to-find Halves, Quarters and Dimes to Barber collectors seeking quality materials. We are always in the market to buy whatever Barber coins you have to sell. Write or phone us your descriptions.

SEND US YOUR WANT LISTS

Our experienced staff of professional numismatists attend every major coin show, sale and auction. We monitor the coin teletype on a daily basis. Let us help you find the coins you seek.

HONESTY • EXPERIENCE • INTEGRITY

MEMBER: NGC • PCGS • ANA



**350 CENTERVILLE ROAD • LANCASTER, PA 17601
(717) 299-1211**